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SIR CUSACK RONEY.

In the course of a memoir of Mr. William Dargan, which appeared in our pages in September, 1853, and more especially in reference to that gentleman's promotion of the Dublin Exhibition, which has since met with a recognition so universal and so eulogistic at the hands alike of royalty and of the multitude, there occurred, in allusion to the individual whose name heads this notice, some remarks which we take the liberty of repeating, as the best introduction to the observations that are about to follow. Having given some details of Mr. Dargan's early life and subsequent railway

prises. Mr. Peto, having had long experience of Mr. Roney's peculiar aptitude of the kind referred to, embraced the suggestions offered, with a promptitude alike flattering to the discernment of the one and confidence of the other, as the issue proved. Forthwith Mr. Roney developed the highly-complicated but most simply-executed scheme, known as the 'Tourist Traffic System,' whereby the requirements of the travelling public were met with a completeness which, all things considered, would have been declared wholly impossible three months before the machinery was in full operation



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proceedings, the biography continued:—"Towards the end of 1851, the prescient eye of Mr. Roney—well known in England, and whose capacity for administering the affairs of great mercantile companies and associations had long been established—foresaw that there was about to be an 'exodus,' as the saying is, of the British travelling public into Ireland. This idea he soon made apparent to the chairman of the Chester and Holyhead Railway, Mr. S. M. Peto, the affluent and enlightened member for Norwich, whose name is scarcely less known in any country in Europe than his own, owing to the vastness and general diffusion of his railway enter-

and which *would* have been utterly impossible in any other hands. According to the *Times* of the 18th of November, in its review of Sir Francis Head's 'Fortnight in Ireland,' upwards of 200,000 English tourists visited that country in 1852. This enormous crowd, equal to the entire population of a German principality, or South American republic, made their acquaintance with the island at probably, on an average cost per head, one-fifth what they would have been able to do but for the suggestion of Mr. Roney's system while the country and all the railway companies were immensely benefited, and the foundation laid for the illimitable future exten-

sion of the same plan. Ireland was full of English visitors, who expressed their admiration of what they saw, and their delight with the civility and attention lavished upon them by a people whose natural disposition was pronounced to be worthy of their scenery and their soil—and the force of flattery could no further go. The common topic of conversation was, of course, the wonders of the World's Fair the previous summer in Hyde-park, where every one had been, and whence every one had carried some idea to interchange for a neighbour's. A Lilliputian reproduction of the Brobdingnag structure had been got up at Cork, and with very great success, though confined only to the contributions of the neighbourhood. The *sentiment* of the desirability of a Great Irish Exhibition, doubtless, occurred simultaneously to numbers all over the country; but, as the poet defines wit to be, what was

'Oft thought before, but ne'er so well expressed'—

so these vague, dreamy, and as yet voiceless predilections had to be reduced to form and substance and tangibility; and they were, by Messrs. Dargan and Roney. When, where, or under what circumstances these gentlemen originally came together, we have not heard. But certain it is there ensued from this meeting a mutual recognition of capacity, ingenueness, and determination, which has resulted in a conviction that the two individuals were essential to the completion of the purpose which then germinated, perhaps unconsciously, in the mind of either. Probably the merit, if it be one, of priority, belonged to neither; and spontaneously the conception came forth. There were two Frankensteins at work on the same materials; but such 'faultless monster as the world ne'er saw,' at least in Ireland (the land of phenomena), will, we believe, be the result of the double parentage. Wholly devoid of jealousy, superior to the littleness that would seek the gratification of a paltry vanity by enforcing obscurity on others, as shown by his rejection of a titular honour proffered by the late Lord Lieutenant, Mr. Dargan not only insisted on keeping altogether in the background, but that Mr. Roney, as his representative on the committee, should become the secretary of the undertaking. This Mr. Roney did, stipulating only that his position should be honorary, his services gratuitous, and immediately he proceeded to justify in Ireland the expectations which his English antecedents had already created.

"The unparalleled act of Mr. Dargan in placing £20,000 at the disposal of the committee, would in itself have been sufficient to stamp any project with abundant *éclat* in any part of the world, and to ensure the donor an universal celebrity. But what lent it the prestige of assured success in the eyes of persons who were to be called upon to send to it those articles which alone could make it what it ought to be, was the knowledge that a practical man like Mr. Roney had pledged himself to realise Mr. Dargan's aspirations, by achieving for Ireland an eminent industrial status among nations, and thus, by one effort, obliterate the odium of ages. Accordingly, his reception on the continent, with many of the languages of which he is well acquainted (he was partly educated in France), was in the highest degree gratifying. The letters he took from our Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs secured him, of course, the co-operation of the whole British *corps diplomatique* abroad, and procured him admission to circles that would have been otherwise impervious to all private efforts. But in the countenance personally extended to him by the Emperor of the French, the King of the Belgians and of Prussia, and by the various Dutch, Austrian, and other continental authorities, and all the great manufacturing and artistic interests of every kind, in the course of his extensive tours, there was a heartiness and cordiality far more impressive and significant than what any formal introduction, however exalted, could have commanded."

"Mr. Roney, well knowing on whom he had to rely, instead of circumscribing his scope and concentrating his efforts when he saw how brilliantly the scheme was being taken up, put forth fresh feelers, and derived fresh strength and daring from each response. Mr. Dargan added another £6,000 to the original sum. Again the work proceeded; and again Mr. Dargan seconded the efforts of his ally by still another advance of £14,000—making a total of £40,000! Here it has been necessary to stop, not from the exhaustion of Mr. Dargan's liberality, and still less, if that be possible, by a cessation of the consequences we have been particu-

rising; but because of the pressure of inexorable time, the necessity of now seeking to mature and perfect what had been so sumptuously initiated. On that object the energies of the Dublin executive are now being brought to bear. The erection of the building is keeping pace precisely with the calculations on which it has been erected. We do not wish to encumber this paper with details of its dimensions and peculiarities, and shall content ourselves with saying that it is after the design of Mr. Benson, C.E., who erected the Cork Exhibition already alluded to. Selected from among twenty-nine competing designs,—the rivalry being provoked far less by the proffered prize of £50, than by the desire to participate in the fame redounding from a prominent association in such a work—it is uniquely beautiful; and though it has necessarily much in common with the Crystal Palace, it is in no respect a plagiarism of that conception, and abounds in merits of its own that stamp it as thoroughly original. Be the result of the Exhibition what it may—and it is impossible to believe it can fail to be all and everything its projector and creator can expect—the remembrance of 1853 will at least confer an enviable immortality on William Dargan, and for ever 'keep his memory green' with a grateful and admiring posterity."

It is with no inconsiderable satisfaction that the writer of the foregoing, after the lapse of eleven months, quotes his then anticipations now, and appeals for their confirmation to what has since become matter of history. If the magnanimity of Mr. Dargan was remarkable in refusing at the hands of the Irish viceroy the honour of a knighthood, how much greater must it have been in declining a still higher dignity when proffered personally by the English monarch herself? But the favour of his sovereign raised him to a far more exalted eminence than his acceptance of any mere titular appellation could have done. Her Majesty, with a truly royal graciousness worthy of all panegyric, on the occasion of her visit to Dublin last year, proceeded, accompanied by the Prince Consort, to the private residence of Mr. Dargan, at a short distance from the Irish metropolis, and expressed to him and his amiable wife her sense of the admiration with which she had been filled by a contemplation of the superb fabric his truly patriotic munificence had erected on the lawn of Leinster House. Not only did her Majesty do this, but she took care to manifest her feelings towards him in the most conspicuous manner possible within the area of the beautiful building he had created, and repeated inspections of whose varied and extraordinary contents she made in company with him. The success of the Exhibition was great, though it resulted in a loss of not less than £20,000 to the projector—a loss which he estimated as light indeed compared to the enduring good it was calculated to confer, and which it has conferred, on his country.

The main-spring of the *éclat* that attended the memorable Dublin Exhibition of 1853, was admitted on all hands to be in the secretary. Through his exertions it was invested with its thoroughly cosmopolitan character throughout Europe, contributions from nearly all parts of which were forwarded, principally at his instigation and personal solicitation, to the value of nearly three quarters of a million sterling. There never was a question raised in any quarter as to the paramount credit due to him, not only for his indefatigable exertions in connexion with this great work, but for the tact and discrimination that gave efficacy to those exertions, and imparted to his colleagues a reliance that everything he undertook would be carried out to the letter. So emphatic was this feeling on the part of the executive staff, not only during the continuance of the Exhibition, but after its close, when the mere temporary value of his presence and counsels might be supposed to have passed away, that the "Official Record" of the undertaking was dedicated to him by the chief financial officer of the committee, in terms whose warmth and deservedness were abundantly justified, as the facts we have enumerated will readily suggest.

Acting in conformity with the voice of public approval, the lord-lieutenant of Ireland, the Earl of St. Germans, on the opening day of the Dublin Exhibition, intimated that, at its close, he proposed conferring on Mr. Roney the honour of knighthood—a piece of intelligence that was received with unqualified approval, not only among his countrymen, but in England, where he had formed a larger circle of friends than almost any private individual not moving in political life or commanding high social station could boast of.

Some of the more influential of these friends having, about the time we speak of, matured plans of immense magnitude in connexion with the development of the resources of Canada and British North America generally, by means of railways, naturally turned their attention to the gentleman who, by common accord, was regarded as in every way the most competent to carry these plans into execution with the utmost promptitude and discretion. Accordingly negotiations were opened with Mr. Roney, by the directorate of the magnificent system of railways, of which the main artery is the Canadian Grand Trunk, extending upwards of 1,400 miles, and connecting the Atlantic seaboard on the English side with the network of the States' railways and the chain of lakes on the west, and requiring no less than eleven millions sterling for its formation. The Exhibition being now in the full tide of its popularity, Mr. Roney closed with these overtures, and in June proceeded to Canada, where his faculty of railway organisation in creating an executive staff and simplifying the arrangements for traffic that was yet non-existent, though certain to be enormous as soon as the requisite facilities should be forthcoming, speedily made itself felt in a mode as satisfactory as circumstances would possibly permit. Having made repeated inspections of every portion of the country and its vicinage about to be embraced in the sphere of the British North American railways, he returned to Europe, and on the closing day of the Dublin Exhibition had conferred upon him, by the Earl of St. Germans, the honour of knighthood, when, to quote the "Official Record" already alluded to, "12,500 of his assembled fellow-citizens manifested their approval of the action by their hearty cheers, which rang through the entire building."

Had Sir Cusack Roney remained in Europe during the entire period the Dublin Exhibition was open, it is believed by those most competent to form an opinion of such matters, that the pecuniary result would have been a considerable gain, instead of a heavy loss to Mr. Dargan. It would be useless now to analyse the probability on which this conjecture was based; but, however we might have rejoiced for Mr. Dargan's sake, had such really been the case, the absence of Sir Cusack Roney from Canada, at the precise period when he visited that most flourishing dependency of the British crown, would have retarded events pregnant with material consequences that are not to be measured by gains or losses of a private nature, however large. His personal acquaintance with Canada and its wonderful resources as a field for his countrymen, and the confidence with which the latter looked up to his judgment, enabled him to direct to the shores of the British North American colonies a considerable portion of that tide of Irish emigration which had hitherto flowed almost exclusively to our States, even when flowing through the Canadas. Hence, every mail from our shores bears news of a constantly-increasing proportionate influx of Irish, and not only of Irish, but of English and Scotch immigrants into Canada, the powerful previous attractions of which for labourers of every class, and especially farmers and men of small means, more particularly with large families, have been infinitely enhanced by those stupendous railway works of which Sir Cusack is the director, and the progressive benefits of which to the mother-country and the colony must be inestimable. He remained some months in England, actively employed in the promotion of the onerous duties entrusted to him, and with such success, making so apparent the solidity and self-sustaining nature of Canadian prosperity, that the war, which

annihilated so many other schemes of great promise by disorganising the money-market and scaring capitalists from investing, failed to prevent the necessary funds from being raised for the construction of the various sections of the Grand Trunk as rapidly as was desirable.

During his stay in England he was mainly instrumental in getting up one of the most imposing demonstrations of respect and esteem ever shown in the city of London to any individual subject in this realm, with the single exception of the Duke of Wellington. It was a dinner at the London Tavern to Lord Elgin, Governor-general of Canada, who happened to be in that country at the time on leave of absence from the post to which he has since returned with renewed *éclat*, and where he has just established fresh claims on the gratitude of the Canadians and admiration of the English community. The price of the tickets to the dinner was three guineas and a half per head—a circumstance which we mention, simply for the purpose of showing that the inducement to be present must have been something more than ordinary, when such a cost did not prevent the great room from being crowded to its utmost capacity, with men of the highest station in the metropolis, Lord John Russell being in the chair, supported by nearly one-half the present cabinet, and by several ex-secretaries of state for the colonies, who came forward to testify their concurrence in the conduct of the noble guest of the evening, at the instance of the committee, to whom Sir Cusack Roney acted as honorary secretary—a position anything but a sinecure in his hands. He soon afterwards returned to Canada, in company with Lord Elgin, and accompanied his lordship to Washington, where the noble earl succeeded in effecting a commercial treaty with the our States, that has not only for ever put an end to the perilous disputes which so long endangered the peace and good feeling of the two countries, in respect to the right of fishing within certain debatable limits, but has made free-trade and genuine reciprocity the basis of all future commercial relations, whereby each nation will be a most substantial gainer, Canada, in a pre-eminent degree, profiting by the new and never-failing markets thus opened for her teeming and varied produce at her own doors.

It only remains for us to say, in the words of "Dod's Knightage" for the current year, that Sir Cusack Roney, whom we introduce into our gallery as an evidence of what energy, industry, and exemplary conduct will achieve in England, even when not exercised in the ordinary professional, commercial, or political walks of life, is the "son of the late Cusack Roney, Esq., an eminent surgeon in Dublin, who was twice president of the Royal College of Surgeons there. Born in Dublin, 1810; married, 1837, daughter of Jas. Whitcombe, Esq.; educated in France and at the University of Dublin, where he graduated B.A., 1829, and in the same year passed the College of Surgeons in Ireland; but shortly afterwards abandoned the medical profession. Was secretary to the Royal Literary Fund from 1835 to 1837; subsequently became private secretary to the Right Hon. R. More O'Ferrall (late Governor of Malta), when he was secretary to the Admiralty and the Treasury; was next, for some years, a clerk in the Admiralty at Whitehall; became secretary to the Eastern Counties Railway in 1845; and managing director of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada in 1853; was knighted by Earl St. Germans, Lord-lieutenant of Ireland, for his eminent services as secretary to the Great Industrial Exhibition in Dublin in 1853."

MONUMENTAL FOUNTAIN, IN THE PLACE SAINT SULPICE, AT PARIS.

THIS beautiful work of art, which was raised at the expense of the city of Paris, and of which we present an engraving, stands close to the Church of Saint Sulpice, in the middle of the great square before the doorway. It is of stone, in the form of a quadrangular pavilion, surmounted by a hip roof, which terminates in a flower and a cross. At the foot of the pavilion are three basins one above the other, the two uppermost of which are connected by four pedestals with two steps. The upper step of each supports a vase with two handles, from which flows a jet of water; on the lower step is a lion couchant with a cartouche in its claws, representing the arms of Paris. The water which escapes from the vases falls in cascades into the lowest basin, which is octagonal in form.

In the niches on the four sides of the pavilion, which are separated by Corinthian pilasters, have been placed the statues of four great pulpit orators—Bossuet, Fénelon, Flechter, and Massillon. The niches are surmounted by escutcheons crowned with caps of ecclesiastical dignitaries, and bearing the arms of the dioceses of Meaux, Cambrai, Nîmes, and Clermont.

The monument was constructed according to the plans and under the direction of M. Visconti, by whose recent death France has lost a great artist, of whom she may well be proud. It has been charged with being a little too heavy in general appearance, and there is certainly some truth in this; but the excuse of the artist is supposed to be, that he felt it necessary to conform to the type set before him in the doorway of the Church of Saint Sulpice. There